

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

PROPERTY NAME: George House **INVENTORY NO.** CAR-348
ADDRESS: 23648 25204 Shore Highway, Ridgely, MD 21660-1847
OWNER: Derrick N. and Catherine Comfort
TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 113 **TAX MAP NUMBER:** 27
PROJECT: MD 404 from US Route 50 to Denton Bypass **AGENCY:** MD SHA
SITE VISIT BY: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.
NAME: Wendy Zug-Gilbert **DATE:** July 2001

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDED	ELIGIBILITY NOT RECOMMENDED X
CRITERIA: A; B; C; D	
CONSIDERATIONS: A; B; C; D; E; F; G; NONE	

IS PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES; X NO
IS DISTRICT LISTED? YES; NO
NAME OF DISTRICT:

DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROPERTY/DISTRICT IS PRESENTED IN:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION:

Summary Description:

The George House is located on the north side of Maryland Route 404, between Ridgely-Bridgetown Road (MD 312) and Holly Road, west of Denton in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The George House and its small collection of outbuildings may have originally been the core of a small farm. The house and outbuildings are located on a 1.2-acre lot that was parceled out of a larger property within the past 20 years. It sits on a slight rise between tributaries to the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek. The property includes a residence, a meat house, a barn (carriage house), and a machinery shed. The house is a two-story, vernacular dwelling with porches on the south and east elevations. The frame house has a brick foundation, modern vinyl siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. A meat house is situated immediately to the northeast of the house and appears to have retained its original board-and-batten siding. The square, front-gable meat house has a single entry in the center of its south elevation. The frame one-and-a-half story barn probably dates to the same period as the house, but the equipment storage/chicken house appears to be a twentieth-century building constructed with a combination of concrete block and wood.

Significance:

The George House does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The associated farmland has been lost, and the property no longer functions as a farm. While this property has not been dramatically altered (with the exception of siding and roofing materials), it does not possess significant architectural importance in either construction or detailing to be eligible for listing.

PREPARED BY: Wendy Zug-Gilbert, Principal Investigator, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.

Maryland Historical Trust Review

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended: X

Criteria: A; B; C; D **Considerations:** A; B; C; D; E; F; G; None

Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Andrew Lewis

Date

09/25/01

Reviewer, NR program

B. Kuntz

Date

9/27/01

✓-entered

**CAROLINE COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

SURVEY No.: CAR-348

NAME: George House

LOCATION: ²³⁶⁴⁸
~~23204~~ Shore Highway, Ridgely, Maryland 21660-1847

DATE: c. 1890

ACCESS: Private

DESCRIPTION:

The George House is located on the north side of Maryland Route 404, between Ridgely-Bridgetown Road (MD 312) and Holly Road, west of Denton in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The George House and its small collection of outbuildings may have originally been the core of a small farm. The house and outbuildings are located on a 1.2-acre lot that was parceled out of a larger property within the past 20 years. It sits on a slight rise between tributaries to the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek. The property includes a residence, a meat house, a barn (carriage house), and a machinery shed. The house is a two-story, vernacular dwelling with porches on the south and east elevations. The frame house has a brick foundation, modern vinyl siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. A meat house is situated immediately to the northeast of the house and appears to have retained its original board-and-batten siding. The square, front-gable meat house has a single entry in the center of its south elevation. The frame one-and-a-half story barn probably dates to the same period as the house, but the equipment storage/chicken house appears to be a twentieth-century building constructed with a combination of concrete block and wood.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The George House does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The associated farmland has been lost, and the property no longer functions as a farm. While this property has not been dramatically altered (with the exception of siding and roofing materials), it does not possess significant architectural importance in either construction or detailing to be eligible for listing.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-348

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

George House (preferred)

other

Comfort House

2. Location

street and number

23648 Shore Highway (MD 404)

n/a not for publication

city, town

Ridgely

X vicinity

county

Caroline

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Derrick N. and Catherine Comfort

street and number

23648 Shore Highway (MD 404)

telephone

n/a

city, town

Ridgely

state

MD

zip code

21660-1847

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Caroline County Courthouse

tax map and parcel

27-113

city, town

Denton

liber

FDM366

folio

924

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

Other:

6. Classification

Category

district

X building(s)

structure

site

object

Ownership

public

X private

both

Current Function

agriculture

commerce/trade

defense

X domestic

education

funerary

government

health care

industry

landscape

recreation/culture

religion

social

transportation

work in progress

unknown

vacant/not in use

other:

Resource Count

Contributing

4

Noncontributing

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

0

7. Description

Inventory No. CAR-348

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The George House is located on the north side of Maryland Route 404, between Ridgely-Bridgetown Road (MD 312) and Holly Road, west of Denton in Caroline County on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The house and its small collection of outbuildings may have once been the core of a small farm. Currently, the house and outbuildings are located on a 1.2-acre lot that was parceled out of a larger property within the past 20 years. The house sits on a slight rise between tributaries to the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek. The property includes a residence, a meat house, a barn (carriage house), and a machinery shed.

The George House is a two-and-a-half-story, frame, vernacular dwelling covered with vinyl siding on a brick foundation. The orientation of the structure is confusing – from the highway to the south, the dwelling appears to have a gable-front-and-wing plan; however, the enclosed hipped-roof porch and three-bay fenestration on the gable-front’s eastern side elevation give the appearance of a dwelling façade. If the latter configuration is correct than the residence would be facing east with its southern side elevation fronting on the highway and would have a rear kitchen wing (the wing section). A porch is located in the southern ell of these two units. A one-story addition is situated on the northern gable end of the dwelling. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. A single brick interior chimney is located on the ridge of the westernmost gable. Windows are a combination of six-over-six and four-over-four sash.

A former meat house is located immediately north of the house. It is a small, square, front-gable building constructed with board-and-batten siding and a corrugated metal roof. The meat house has a single batten door on the south elevation. A one-and-a-half story barn is located to the northeast of the house. It is constructed with vertical wood planks supported by brick pilings and piers, and has a corrugated metal roof. A shed-roof extension is attached to its west elevation and provides an additional two bays. The barn is currently used for domestic storage. A frame and concrete-block machinery shed is the property’s northernmost improvement. It has three open bays on its east elevation and an enclosed section on the northern end, which is used as a chickenhouse. The structure has a modern corrugated metal roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CAR-348

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates	1880-1900	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	circa 1890		

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance

The George House does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The associated farmland has been lost, and the property no longer functions as a farm. While this property has not been dramatically altered (with the exception of siding and roofing materials), it does not possess significant architectural importance in either construction or detailing to be eligible for listing.

Historic Narrative

The George House dates to circa 1890. The house is not on Isler’s 1875 map of Caroline County, but first appears on Saulsbury’s 1897 map of the county (Saulsbury 1897). Caroline County Tax Assessment information suggests that the house was built in 1890, which is likely correct. It later appears on the 1905 quadrangle map of the area (USGS 1905).

The George House was built after the Civil War, a period characterized by the industrialization of agriculture, the beginning of mechanized farming, and the emergence of strong regional urban markets (Lanier & Herman 1997:178). In addition, the extension of the Maryland & Delaware Railroad to neighboring Hillsboro in 1868 provided high-speed transit for formerly untransportable produce. Produce such as berries, cherries, peaches, and perishable vegetables as well as small game and animals including as partridges, wild duck, geese, rabbits, and poultry could be shipped farther and faster (Preston 1983:234). Eggs and oysters were other major products. The George House is located several miles south of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad, but agricultural products and livestock could have been transported by wagon to the railroad.

In 1896, a second railroad was constructed through the area (Hayman 1979:118). The Queen Annes Railroad was the last major railroad to be built on the Eastern Shore. It was constructed as an east-west line to service the agriculturally productive region in the upper Eastern Shore. This railroad ran along the north side of Queen Anne Highway between Wye Mills and Queen Anne cutting through the farmland to the rear of the George House. By this time, the George House, its meat house, and barn were likely in existence. The George House, which currently sits on a 1.2-acre lot, may have historically been the core of a small-scale farm.

By the early twentieth century, significant changes in farming practices ushered in a new period of agriculture. The use of engine-driven trucks and tractors, the importance of hygienic farming standards, and the expansion of truck farming became important trends. Just shortly following this early twentieth-century period, concrete and concrete-block gained popularity as building materials. The machinery shed on the George House property was constructed during this period. A mid-twentieth century topographic map which was photo revised in 1973 shows two structures along a farmlane which extends northeast towards the Baltimore and Eastern Railroad tracks (USGS 1973). Presumably, the buildings depicted on the map are the George House and the barn. During the twentieth-century, the lot with the house was parceled out of the surrounding 40-acre farm. Currently, the property is residential with agricultural fields surrounding it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CAR-348

Caroline County Tax Assessment Records and Tax Maps. Located at Caroline County Courthouse, Denton, MD.

Hayman, John C.
1979 *Rails Along the Chesapeake – A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978*. Marvadel Publishers, unknown location.

Isler, John B.
1875 *Map of Caroline County, Maryland*.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1.2 acres	
Acreage of historical setting	40 acres	
Quadrangle name	Ridgely, MD (1973)	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

n/a

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Leslie A. Dyer and Wendy Zug-Gilbert / Principal Investigators		
organization	Archeaological & Historical Consultants, Inc.	date	July 2001
street & number	101 N. Pennsylvania Ave., PO Box 482	telephone	(814) 364-2135
city or town	Centre Hall	state	PA

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-348

George House Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard L. Herman

1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Preston, Dickinson J.

1983 *Talbot County: A History*. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD.

Saulsbury, M. L.

1897 *Map of Caroline County, Maryland*. Drafted by M. L. Saulsbury, Civil Engineer, Ridgely, Maryland. Traced and copied by George Herbert Foster, Denton, Maryland, 1969.

United States Geologic Survey (USGS)

1973 *Ridgely, Maryland Quadrangle*. 7.5-minute series.

1905 *Denton, Maryland Quadrangle*. 15-minute series.

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000: THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. GEOGRAPHIC REGION:

- X EASTERN SHORE (ALL EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES AND CECIL)
WESTERN SHORE (ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST. MARY'S)
PIEDMONT (BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, HARFORD,, HOWARD,
MONTGOMERY)
WESTERN MARYLAND (ALLEGANY, GARRETT, WASHINGTON)**

II. CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS:

- RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION (A.D. 1680-1815)
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION (A.D. 1815-1870)
X INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE (A.D. 1870-1930)
MODERN PERIOD (A.D. 1930-PRESENT)
UNKNOWN PERIOD (PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC)**

III. HISTORIC PERIOD THEMES:

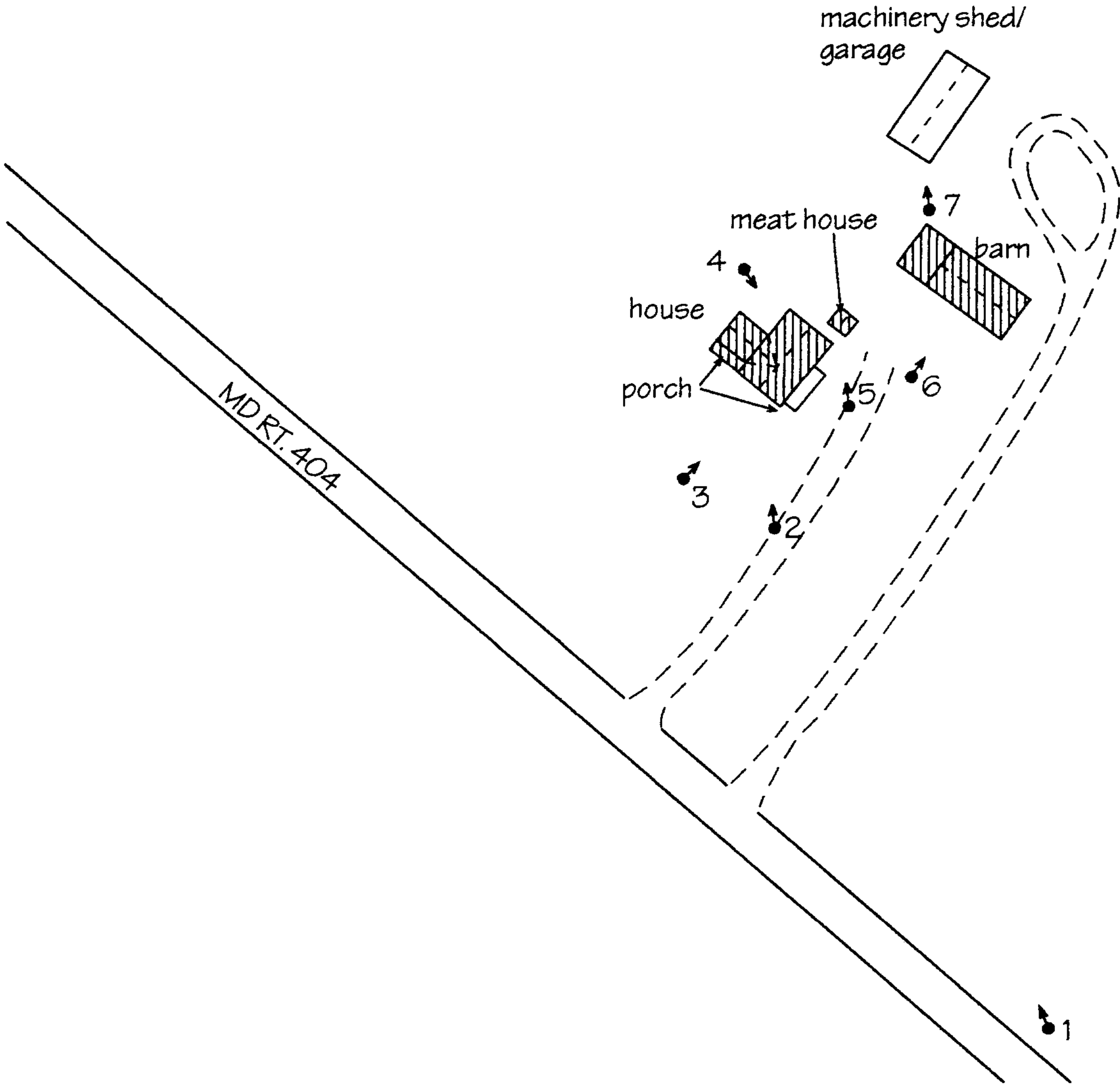
- AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE, AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
ECONOMIC (COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL)
GOVERNMENT/LAW
MILITARY
RELIGION
SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL
TRANSPORTATION**

IV. RESOURCE TYPE:

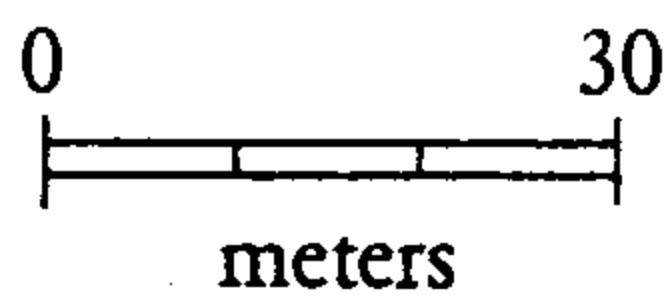
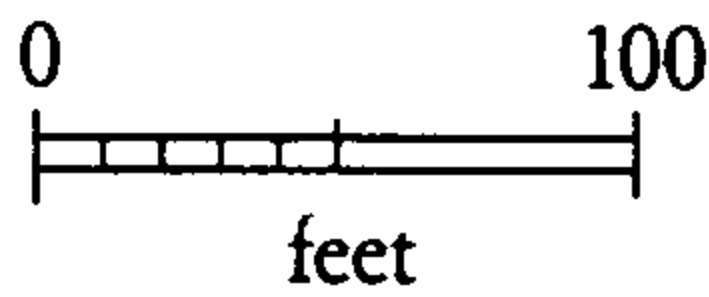
**CATEGORY: residence
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: rural
HISTORIC FUNCTION(S) AND USE(S): domestic
KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: none**

George House (CAR-348)

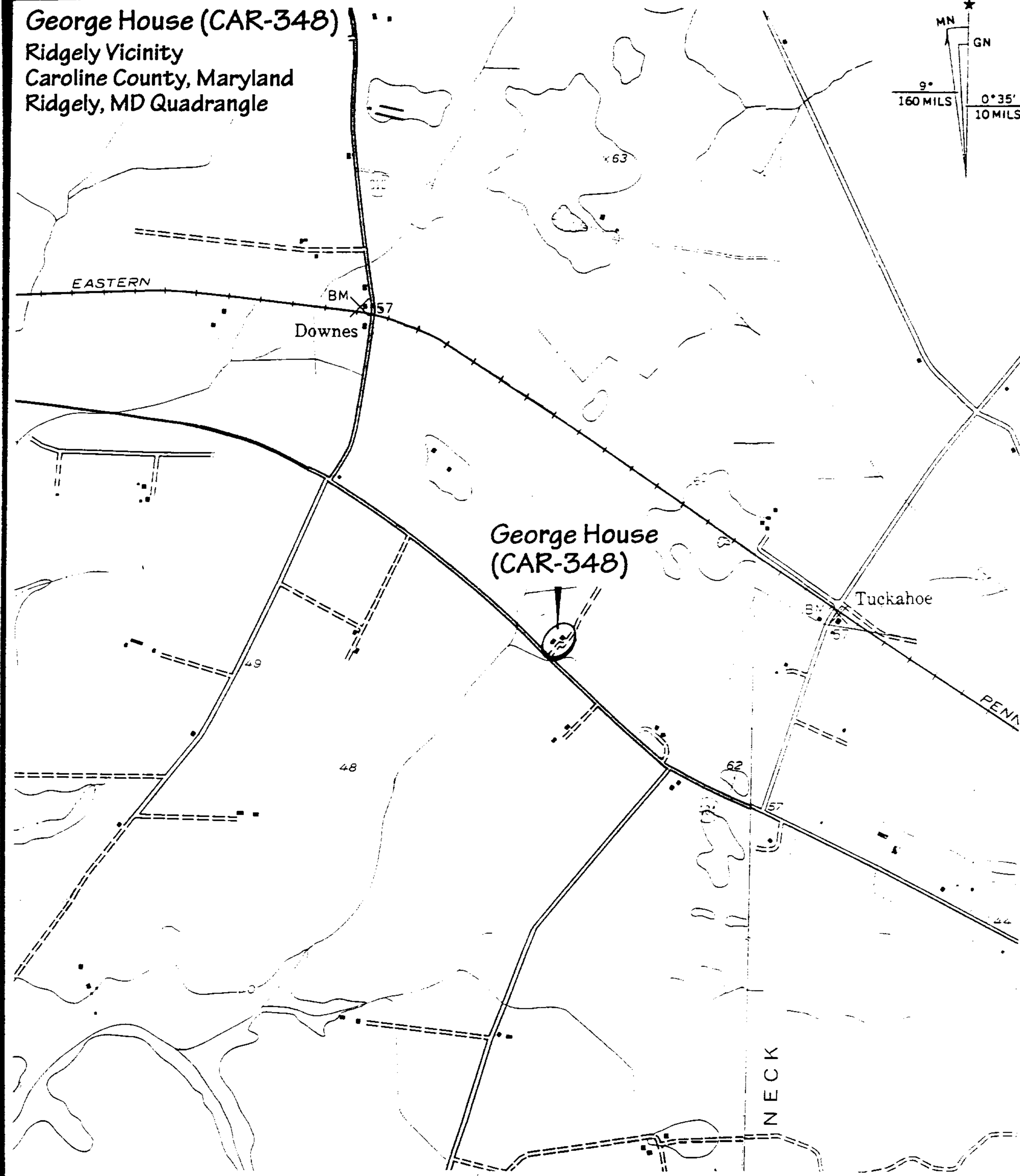
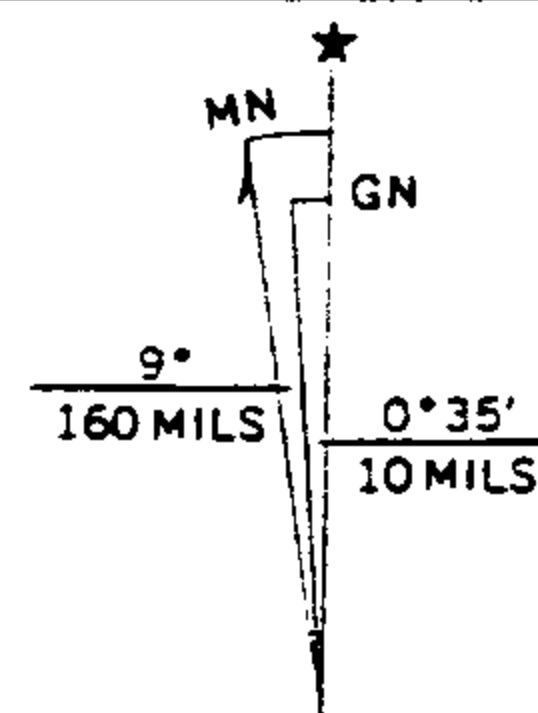
Ridgely Vicinity
Caroline County, Maryland
Resource Sketch Map



- ➔ = Photo Viewpoint
- ▨ = Historic Structure



Ridgely Vicinity
Caroline County, Maryland
Ridgely, MD Quadrangle

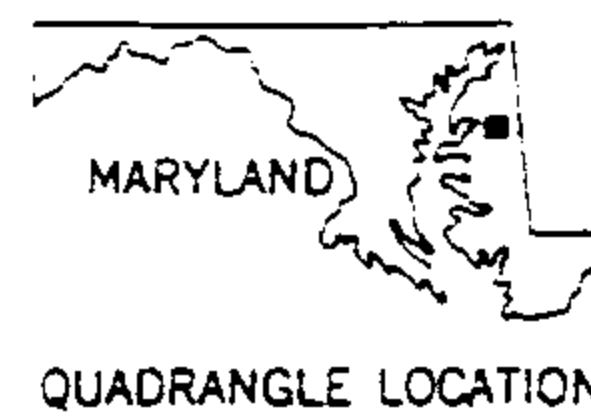


1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

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CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET





CAR-348

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Overview of property, facing northwest

1 of 7



CAR - 34B

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

House, east elevation, facing northwest

2 of 7



CAR-348

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Sutfness

June 2001

MD SHPO

House, south elevation, facing northeast

3 of 7



CAR-348

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHP3

House, west elevation, facing southeast

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CAR-348

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

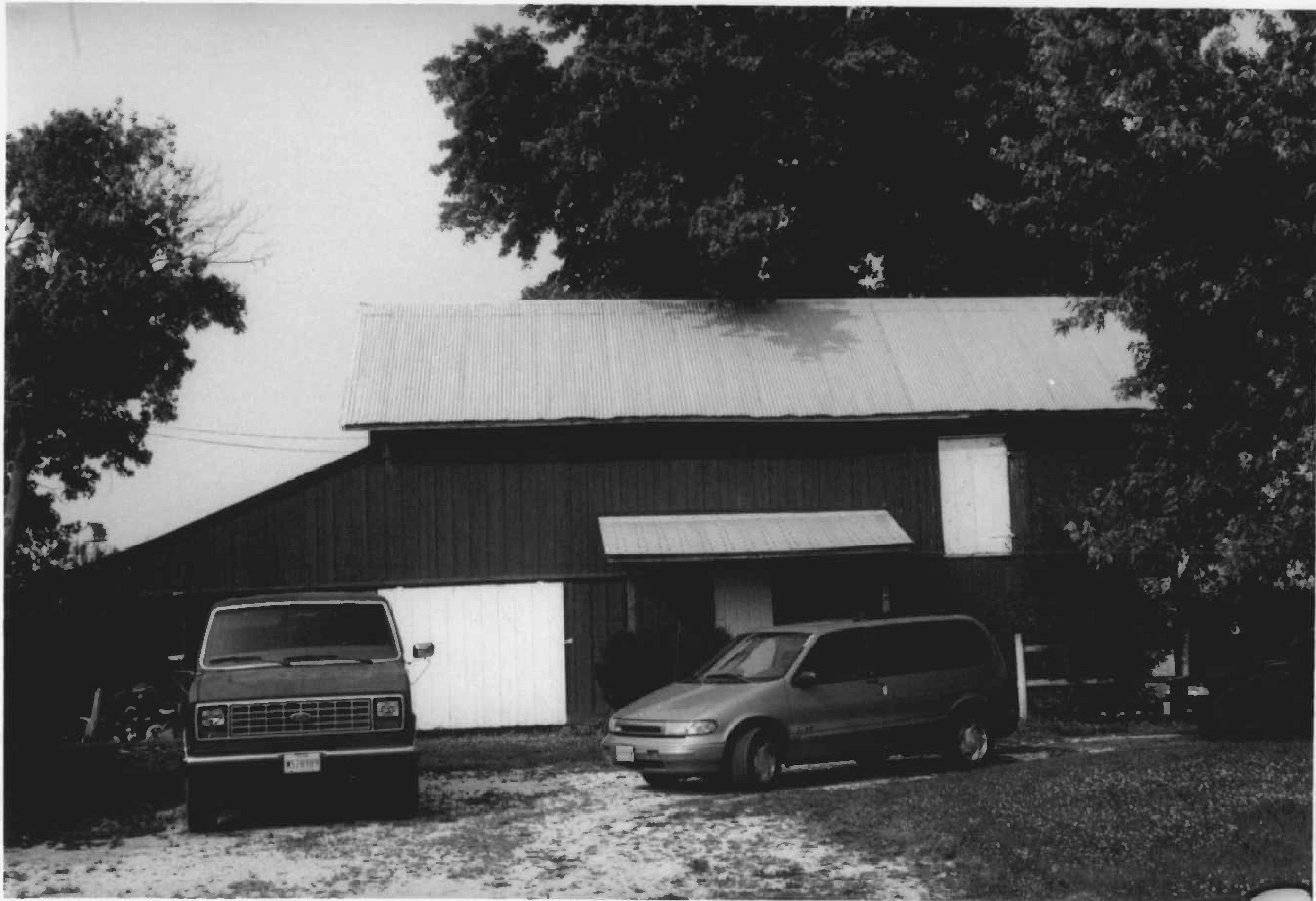
Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Meat House, south gable end, facing north

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CAR-348

George Howe

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SNPO

Barn, south elevation, facing northeast

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CAR - 348

George House

Caroline County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Machinery shed, garage, open east elevation, facing north

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